

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 OES-03 HEW-02 AID-05 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /106 W

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2522

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, XF, WHO

SUBJ: 38TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY: ARAB/ISRAELI

REFS: A. GENEVA 2444; B. STATE 79817

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH ISRALI AMBASSADOR EYTAN RONN, DR EHRlich (HEW) INFORMED HIM OF WHO DIRGEN MAHLER'S OBSERVATIONS RELATING TO ME ISSUES REPORTED REFTel (A). RONN LESS SANGUINE THAN MAHLER ABOUT POSSIBLE ARAB MOVES AT WHA, POINTING OUT THAT HOWEVER WELL INTENTIONED EGYPTIAN "MODERATES" MIGHT BE, THEY CAOULD NOT BE REASONABLY EXPECTED WITHSTAND MOVES BY LESS TEMPERATE ARAB COLLEAGUES. IT WAS AGREED THAT ISRAELI AND US MISSIONS HERE SHOULD CONTINUE EXCHANGE INFORMATION WHA MATTERS.

2. REGARDING MAHLER'S EXPRESSION CONCERN THAT ISRAELIS MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO RESPOND STRONGLY TO ARAB CRITICISM OF ISRAEL REFUSAL ADMIT 3-MEMBER INVESTIGATORY COMMISSION AND THUS PROVOKE ARABS TO SEEK APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 7 (SUSPENSION OF ISRAEL),
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RONN NOTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S LETTER TO WHO

AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE RECEIVE INVESTIGATING TEAM PROVIDED ALL MEMBERS CAME FROM STATES HAVING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL REPRESENTED A CONCESSION MADE BY HIS AUTHORITIES AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. HE INTIMATED THAT IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO SUPPOSE THAT THE ISRAELI DEL WOULD NOT REFER TO THIS ACTION IN RESPONDING TO ARAB CRITICISM RE REFUSAL TO ADMIT TEAM AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED.

3. RONN EXPRESSED SOME INTEREST OVER WHAT EGYPTIANS MAY HAVE MEANT BY ASKING WHO TO TAKE MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN PROVISION HEALTH SERVICES TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, BUT WE WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY CLARIFICATION BEYOND THAT REPORTED REF (A). MISSION INTERPRETS RONN'S INTEREST AS HINT POSSIBLE ADVERSE ISRAELI REACTION TO WHAT THEY MIGHT CONSIDER INFRINGEMENT THEIR SOVEREIGNTY.

4. IN SEVERAL INTERVENTIONS RONN MADE IT CLEAR ISRAELIS QUITE SENSITIVE TO UNESCO-TYPE ACTIONS ON PART OTHER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. CONTACTS HAD ALREADY BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY ISRAELIS THROUGH MEDICAL CONTACTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES TO ENSURE THAT HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES AWARE IMPORTANCE TO ISRAEL (AND INCIDENTALLY TO WHO) OF AVOIDING SUSPENSION. RONN PLANS SEE MAHLER SHORTLY, POSSIBLY AFTER DIRGEN MID EAST TRIP MID APRIL AND PROMISES TO KEEP MISSION FULLY INFORMED.
ABRAMS

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